



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/598,230

08/22/2006

Gerben Johan Hekstra

FR 040025

1505

24737 7590 12/11/2008  
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

CHIN, RICKY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2423

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/11/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/598,230	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HEKSTRA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> RICKY CHIN	<b>Art Unit</b> 2423	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-  
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent; or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by  
Knapp, US 2004/0036782.

Regarding claim 1, Knapp discloses a signal processing system comprising first electronic means for storing an input signal (See Fig.6, 610 and [0035] which discloses mass storage devices for storing an input signal), second means for a real-time processing of the input signal thus stored (See Fig.6, 604 which discloses a video enhancement device), and third electronic means for storing the signal thus processed (See Fig.6, 630 which illustrates storage of the enhanced signal), said system being further characterized in that the second processing means themselves comprise off-line signal enhancement means applied to said input signal and using available processing resources (See [0013] which discloses that the enhancement processing takes place on a separate computer or on a processor device embedded), not still used for real-time or on-

Art Unit: 2423

line processing (See Fig.6, 604 and [0030] which discloses pre and post processing of the video sequence as well as the video enhancement component for enhancement of the signal not currently being viewed by the user yet, thus being 'not still used'), for delivering an enhanced signal and storing it in said third means for storing the signal processed by the second processing means (See Fig. 6, 630 and [0013] and [0035] which discloses storing of the enhanced signal).

Regarding claim 2, Knapp teaches all of the claim limitations of the signal processing system according to claim 1, Knapp further teaches of in which said signal enhancement means also comprise means for modifying said enhanced signal (See Fig. 6, 604 and [0030]), said third electronic means for storing the processed signal being also able to store the enhanced signal thus modified (See Fig.6, 630 and [0035]).

Regarding claim 3, Knapp teaches all of the claim limitations of a signal processing system according to claim 1. Knapp further teaches of in which said third electronic means for storing the signal processed are provided for outputting the enhanced signal and/or the modified enhanced signal in real time (See [0019] and [0035] which discloses that the signal is buffered and processed in real time and discloses a pvr/video camera and personal computer as output devices which are real time outputs).

Art Unit: 2423

Regarding claim 4, Knapp teaches all of the claim limitations of a signal processing system according to claim 1, Knapp further teaches of in which said signal enhancement means comprise one or a plurality of off-line signal processing functions the amount, quality and combination of which depend on the available processing power (See [0013] and [0037]-[0038] which discloses that the processing could take place on a processor device embedded and programmed to enhance the video sequence, thus it is inherent for the amount of processing functions and quality depend on the processing power of the processor since it would be incapable of handling too many functions or of functions that are too advanced if the processor is too primitive or lacks the power to do so).

Regarding claim 5, Knapp teaches all of the claim limitations of a signal processing system according to claim 1, Knapp further teaches of in which said signal enhancement means comprise one or a plurality of off-line signal processing functions the amount, quality and combination of which depend on real-time constraints (See [0019] which discloses being buffered for real-time processing; [0013] and [0037]-[0038] which discloses that the processing could take place on a processor device embedded and programmed to enhance the video sequence, thus it would be inherent for the enhancement means functions such as amount and quality to be dependent on real-time constraints in order for real-time processing to occur).

Regarding claim 6, Knapp teaches all of the claim limitations of a signal processing system according to claim 1. Knapp further teaches of in which said storing means are the video storage device of a home-video recording system (See [0035] which discloses a pvr for storage), and the processor used for implementing the off-line signal enhancement function is a programmable part of the second means for a real-time processing of the stored input signal (See [0030] and [0013] which discloses real-time processing of the stored input signal and can be programmed and embedded onto a processor for enhancement).

### **Contact**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricky Chin whose telephone number is 571-270-3753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on 571-272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

Art Unit: 2423

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ricky Chin/  
Patent Examiner  
AU 2423  
(571) 270-3753  
Ricky.Chin@uspto.gov

/Andrew Y Koenig/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2423